

Personal past history of uses of the State Park system.

I was born and lived most of my life in the City of Detroit. It was wonderful to be able to use the State Parks, it was as if I had my own private playground. My family and I would swim, picnic, go boating & fishing. There were parks close to Detroit so we could enjoy the great outdoors and not have to travel many hours.

When we had more time for travel we utilized many other parks around the state.

I now use the State Parks for camping, hunting, fishing, mushroom picking, and walking in the woods with my family. Since many of the State Parks are along the Great Lakes myself and my family have access to wonderful sandy beaches, camping, waters for fishing and swimming. Its like having our own private wonderland.

Private Parks, and County Parks limit your use of lands by making sure you follow and stay on paths. Some of these parks do not allow camping, or hunting. You do not get the true feeling of being in the great outdoors.

I have noticed declining buildings & plumbing due to smaller numbers of employees. Also, a lot less park rangers patrolling the grounds making sure the parks are safe and clean.

We need our State Parks so that people can enjoy the outdoors and all the parks have to offer. Tourism is very important to the State of Michigan, it brings in a lot of money for businesses and the State.

Finally, I would like to say that if Michigan has a bad season or weather, the funds will not be available to maintain and operate our parks. We do need more funding, parks are important to our economy.

Dennis Holway